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XVIII. *A Description of Duchesnea fragiformis, constituting a new Genus of the Natural Order of Senticosæ of Linnæus, Rosaceæ of Jussieu. By James Edward Smith, M.D. F.R.S. P.L.S.*

*Read April 3, 1810.*

HAVING lately had occasion to study the genus *Fragaria*, I was led to consider the plant figured and described by Mr. Andrews in his *Repository*, t. 479, by the name of *F. indica*, which struck me as, in many respects, very remarkable, and probably constituting a new genus. That it is no *Fragaria* is apparent from the fruit, which is represented like that of a *Rubus*. In short, the plant in question, with the habit of a *Fragaria*, has the yellow flower and ten-cleft calyx of a *Potentilla*, and the fruit of a *Rubus*, differing essentially however from the latter in its calyx, as well as in its habit altogether. I am enabled to bear testimony to the accuracy of Mr. Andrews's representation, by means of a specimen gathered by Dr. Buchanan in Nepal, now in my possession, accompanied with a description drawn up by that excellent botanist on the spot.

In the name of this new genus I wish to commemorate the merits of M. Duchesne, author of the *Histoire Naturelle des Fraisiers* published at Paris in 1766, justly termed by Haller "an excellent little book," in which the varieties of Strawberries are so accurately described, and their synonyms so well illustrated, that I cannot but wonder it did not more excite the attention of  
Linnæus,

Linnæus, who was furnished by its author with specimens of every thing he described. The subject is followed up by the same writer in an essay communicated to Lamarek, and published in his *Dictionnaire de Botanique*, vol. ii. 528, in which perhaps he may be thought to multiply distinctions without necessity, like all who study any subject with a microscopic eye. But if the philosophical principles of strict specific differences have not particularly engaged his attention, that defect is supplied by Ehrhart in his *Beiträge*, fasc. 7. 20, who in the direction of the pubescence of these plants has found means to discriminate the species in a masterly manner. Willdenow in his *Species Plantarum* has profited by these remarks, though he still retains an error of Linnæus in making a distinct species of the *Fragaria monophylla*, Curt. Mag. t. 63, clearly shown by Duchesne to be a variety raised by himself from seed of the Wood Strawberry, *F. vesca*, and found to return gradually to its original in a few generations, when propagated by the same mode.

The plant I am about to describe seems peculiarly fit for the purpose in view, on account of its resemblance and affinity to *Fragaria*, though surely no genus can be more distinct. It affords a new example of what I have often had occasion to remark, that the genera of the Linnæan *Icosandria Polygynia*, which is itself a natural order, are not less distinct in nature than in technical characters.

### DUCHESNEA.

CLASS. ET ORD. *Icosandria Polygynia.*

NAT. ORD. *Senticosæ* Linn. *Rosaceæ* Juss.

ESSENT. CHAR. *Calyx* decemfidus. *Petala* quinque. *Bacca* supera, composita acinis monospermis.

NAT.

NAT. CHAR.

CALYX. *Perianthium* inferum, monophyllum, planum, decemfidum; laciniis quinque alternis exterioribus majoribus, incisus.

COROLLA. *Petala* 5, obovata, longitudine calycis, laciniisque ejus majoribus opposita.

STAMINA. *Filamenta* viginti circitèr, subulata, petalis triplò breviora, calyci inserta. *Antheræ* subrotundæ, bilobæ, incumbentes.

PISTILLUM. *Germina* plurima, parva, in capitulum collecta, ovata, compressa, incurva. *Styli* simplices, lateri germinis inserti, decidui. *Stigmata* simplicia.

PERICARPIUM. *Bacca* composita: *acinis* ovatis, compressis, in capitulum convexum, *receptaculo* carnosio insidens, collectis: singulis unilocularibus.

SEMINA solitaria, reniformia, lævia.

1. *DUCHESNEA fragiformis*.

*Fragaria indica*. *Andr. Repos. t.* 479.

In alpibus Indiæ orientalis.

Native of the sandy shores of rivers in Nepal, flowering in March and April. *Dr. Buchanan*.

*Radix* ramosa, subtuberculata, fibrosa, perennis.

*Caules* plures, procumbentes, repentes, latè diffusi, filiformes, subsimplices, pilosi, foliosi, pauciflori.

*Folia* radicalia plurima; caulina ad genicula solitaria, longiùs petiolata, ternata; foliolis petiolatis, subæqualibus, rotundato-rhombeis, obtusis, inæqualitèr incisus, subtùs pilosis: lateralibus subindè bilobis.

*Petoli* densè pilosi, pilis patentibus.

*Stipulæ* geminæ, basi petioli adnatæ, ovatæ, incisæ, persistentes, pilosæ.

*Pedunculi* oppositifolii, solitarii, debiles, longitudine foliorum, uniflori, ebracteati.

*Flores* ferè *Potentillæ reptantis*, flavi, calyce piloso.

*Fructus* saturatè ruber, insipidus et inodorus.